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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 19 October 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter, dated 2 August 2010, from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the press release issued by the Argentine Government on the Day of Affirmation of Argentine Sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and the Antarctic Sector in commemoration of the establishment in 1829 of the Political and Military Command for the Malvinas Islands.

The Argentine Republic rejects each and every one of the statements contained in the said letter and regrets that the British Government should be trying to misrepresent historical facts in an attempt to conceal the act of usurpation it committed in 1833; this act has, since the moment the British invaded, been the subject of continuing and repeated protests by Argentina. This misrepresentation also demonstrates that the United Kingdom is not certain about what it considers its "rights" on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

The Argentine Republic would like to remind the United Kingdom that the two countries undertook unequivocally "to find a peaceful solution to the problem" concerning their dispute over sovereignty pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX). Rather than trying to refute historical facts which it has already admitted occurred and the consequences of which it also recognizes, the United Kingdom should honour that commitment and immediately resume negotiations with Argentina on sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas in order to reach a just and definitive solution to this dispute. Should it do so, the United Kingdom would be acting lawfully and responsibly, that is to say the way that same country expects the rest of the international community to act from its privileged position within the United Nations.

The Argentine Republic reiterates that the principle of self-determination of peoples, the sole element on which the United Kingdom bases its alleged rights and which is mentioned exclusively in relation to the Malvinas Islands, is totally and manifestly inappropriate and does not apply to the dispute between the two

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countries concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands.

Likewise, the Argentine Republic regrets that the United Kingdom should continue irresponsibly to fan the hopes of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands based on the illicit appropriation of Argentine natural resources in open violation of international law and in contradiction of the pronouncements of international bodies. In that connection, it would like to point out that the interests and way of life of those inhabitants are adequately protected by the relevant General Assembly resolutions and by the Constitution of the Argentine Republic, respectively.

The Argentine Republic deeply regrets the fact that the United Kingdom should try to take advantage of a humanitarian initiative, such as the recent visit to the Malvinas Islands by relatives of Argentine citizens who are buried there, in order to misrepresent — unsuccessfully — the nature of the dispute. Such visits are the product of bilateral agreements between Argentina and the United Kingdom dated 14 July 1999, which is why these initiatives are strictly bilateral in nature.

The Argentine Republic reaffirms its sovereign right over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are part of its national territory, and urges all States to cooperate in pursuit of the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25; it asks them to refrain from encouraging behaviour that is likely to impede the achievement of the goals set forth in those resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have this note circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45 concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative